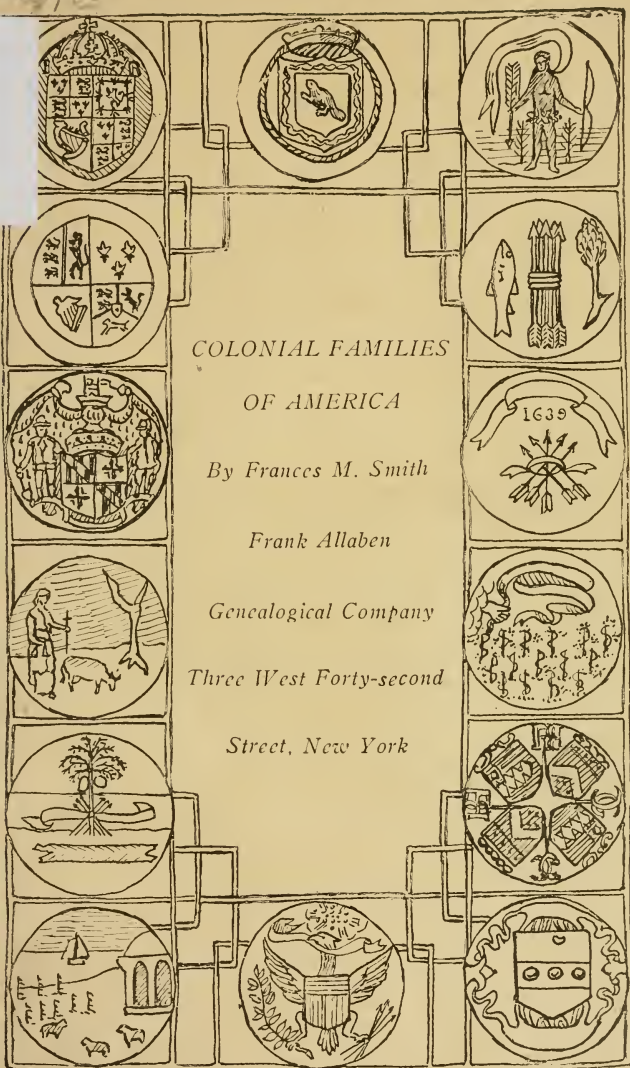


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COLONIAL FAMILIES

OF AMERICA

By Frances M. Smith

Frank Allaben

Genealogical Company

Three West Forty-second

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COLONIAL FAMILIES OF AMERICA

BY ELEANOR LEXINGTON

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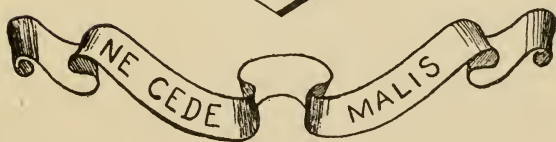
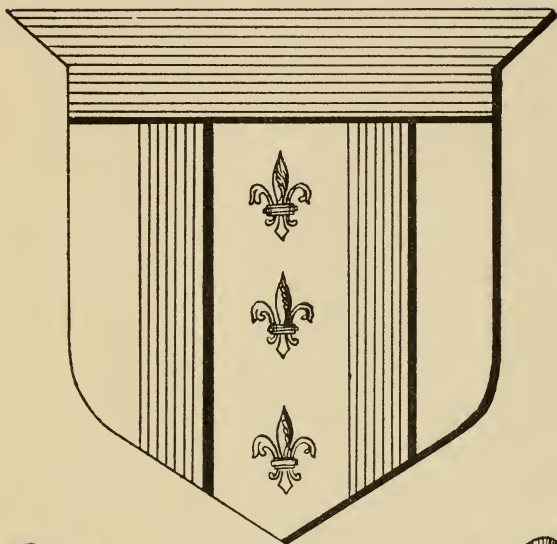
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LOOMIS FAMILY



Loomis

LOOMIS FAMILY

NAME FOUND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD—THEORIES
REGARDING ORIGIN OF NAME—POETS, ARTISTS,
PROFESSIONAL MEN AND ONE MARTYR—FAMILY
RECORDS IN BRITISH MUSEUM AND AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Joseph Loomis, a woolen draper of Braintree, Essex County, England, with five sons and three daughters, sought a home in the New World in 1638. They came over in the ship *Susan and Ellen*, and settled in Windsor, Conn., the following year. The record of his first years in the colony is preserved by the Historical Society of Connecticut.

He died, 1658, aged about seventy years. His land at Windsor was upon what was called "the Island." The place is still owned by descendants and is believed to be the oldest homestead now standing in the United States. Over one and one-half million dollars have been left by Joseph's lineal descendants, of the last few generations, to convert the estate into an educational institute for boys and girls.

Edward Lomas, another pilgrim, settled in Ipswich, Mass., in 1648. He was born in London about 1606. He had six children. His descendants, found in many States, vary the orthography of the name, although Lummis is the usual form. Some write themselves down Loomis, others, without much rhyme or reason, it would seem, are Lamos. The descendants of Joseph are mostly known as Loomis. He and his sons, doubtless thinking "variety the spice of life," used a number of forms, ringing the changes on Looms, Loomes, Loomas, Lomis, Loomax, Lumax, and Lomys. The will of Deacon John, son of Joseph, dated August 27, 1688, is signed Loomys. His is one of the oldest monuments in the Windsor Cemetery. He was a representative to the Legislature for many years. The names of Joseph's five sons are mentioned prominently in old

records of both Windsor and Hartford, as "selectmen, jurors and troopers."

Of Edward's four sons, one, also named Edward, settled in New Jersey. Lummus and Lomaks are specimens of the way they thought their names should be written upon occasions.

True to their coat-armor, which symbolizes, among other things, military strength, we find the Loomis family have their war record.

In Great Britain there was James Lumax, lieutenant-general. To the home of their adoption they proved loyal. Joseph, a descendant of Joseph the first, was in the Continental Army of the Revolution; also Benjamin of Windsor, whose wife was Chloe, daughter of Josiah Brown, a Revolutionary soldier; Jonathan, of Vermont, was a corporal, who played his part manfully, and Gustavus, of Vermont, was in the War of 1812. Nor must we forget Benaiah, a Revolutionary soldier.

Before the third decade of the nineteenth century ten of the name had been graduated from college. The law seems to have been a favorite profession. Arphaxed Loomis, born in Winchester, Conn., in 1798, was a judge, an able speaker and a writer. Dwight Loomis, also from the land of steady habits, was another judge. James was Mayor and (Connecticut State) Senator. Osbert was an artist of renown. Elias Loomis was the scientific man of the family. He was born in Connecticut in 1811. A graduate and professor of Yale College, he wrote many valuable text books, and was the first American to see Halley's comet on its return in 1835.

One of the poets of the family was Harvey Worthington Loomis, who wrote "The Flag Goes By."

"Hats off!

Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
A flash of color beneath the sky,

Hats off,
The flag is passing by!"

It is not easy to believe that a name of such modest proportions as Loomis, started out as Lumhalghes. That such is a fact has been proved to the satisfaction of many members of the Loomis family.

They trace the name to Oliverus de Lumhalghes, who held lands in Lancaster County, England, in 1435. The name also appears as "del Lumhalghe," in records of the time of Henry VI. Radus del Lumhalghes was a landowner in Bury, Lancaster, about the middle of the fifteenth century. The supposition is that this name, which looks so ponderous, was pronounced in two syllables; "h" is only an aspirate and the final "e" is silent. This gives a word Lumalg or Lumalgs, and it is the easiest thing in the world to pronounce this Loomis, is it not? Perhaps not at the first attempt, for there are other variants of the name in old records—Lomax, Lomas, Lommes, Lommas and Lomatz being examples.

For the benefit of the skeptic, who rejects this theory of the origin of the name, another one is given which seems more plausible. Loma is a Spanish word meaning a little hill, the plural being lomas. The first of the Lomas family was one who lived in Spain, and on or near a loma. In support of this theory it may be said that the name, variously spelled, is common in Spain, and also in Italy. Lomas was a Spanish poet of the sixteenth century. Lomazzo was an Italian painter of the same century. He took his name from the village of Lomazzo, near Lake Como. He was summoned to Florence by Cosmo de Medicis, who made him guardian of a gallery of 4,000 paintings. Lomazzi is another Italian form of the name. One of the governors of the province of Saragossa was Eduardo de la Lomas. The name in France is Lomas; in Germany, Lommatsch.

The advocates of the theory of a Spanish origin of the name say it can be traced to the year 1400, to one Loma, and that his descendants went to Italy and to England. The name has always been prominent in

England. In the Manchester records of 1497 a Lawrens Lomatz is mentioned. The arms of Lawrent Lomax, of Eye, Suffolk County, are recorded in a Visitation which has a place in the British Museum. The pedigree of Joshua Lomax, who died in 1685, is found in Pedigrees of Hertfordshire. He was the owner of a manor. The family has its martyr, in the person of John Lomas, burned at Canterbury for heresy, its members of Parliament, and its graduates of Oxford and Eton.

Forms of the name have been favorites for geographical nomenclature. For example, Lomiswyl, or Lomisville, is the name of a village in Switzerland; in Saxony there is a town called Lommatsch; in Africa we find Loma Hill; in the Argentine Republic, Lomas, and Point Loma at San Diego, California.

The illustrated arms are: Argent, between two palets, gules, three fleur-de-lis in pale, sable, a chief, azure.

Crest: On a chapeau, a pelican vulning herself, proper.

Motto: Ne cede malis—"Yield not to adversity."

This coat-armor was used by Joseph, the Windsor forefather, who spelled his name indifferently, Loomis or Lomas.

Regarding the symbolism, palet, a diminutive of the pale, has the same meaning as pale, namely, military strength and fortitude, and was given to those who had impaled or otherwise defended cities, or who had supported the government of their sovereigns, "by standing up uprightly for prince and country." Fleur-de-lis were often granted to those who had taken part in the French wars. The pelican signifies devoted and self-sacrificing charity. The pelican, feeding her young, adorned the altars of many Egyptian temples, and was represented as vulning or wounding herself with her beak, or "in her piety," that is, surrounded by her young, whom she was feeding. The pelican is the device of the inner Temple, London.

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